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Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

on the Health of the Borough
for the Year 1947

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Barrister at Law,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. EWART RUSE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Borough Sanitary Inspector,

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor A. West (Chairman).
 Councillor C. G. Cousins (The Mayor).
 Councillor W. H. Palmer (Deputy Mayor).
 Alderman J. S. Holland.
 Councillor Mrs. A. M. Arthur.
 Councillor L. J. Bourke.
 Councillor J. Burgess (Vice-Chairman).
 Councillor J. Burton.
 Councillor W. Chinn.
 Councillor T. Goodchild.
 Councillor Mrs. K. White.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John T. C. Sims-Roberts,
 M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
 Barrister at Law.

SANITARY INSPECTORS.

W. Ewart Ruse, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
 Borough Sanitary Inspector.
 Douglas Andrew, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
 Additional Sanitary Inspector.

CLERICAL STAFF.

Dennis W. Rixon—resumed duties 10/2/47.
 Douglas A. Keen—resumed duties 1/9/47.
 Miss E. Janes—ceased duties 7/6/47.
 Miss D. Miles.

Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
AYLESBURY.
June, 1948.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Aylesbury.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the health of the Borough of Aylesbury, together with the vital statistics for the year 1947.

The meteorological details in the report have kindly been furnished by the Borough Surveyor's Department, as in former years.

* It is gratifying to report that the Borough was not visited by any serious epidemic of infectious disease throughout the year. The number of measles and whooping cough cases notified was much lower than in the previous year.

Special mention must be made of the fact that no case of diphtheria was notified in the Borough during the year, thus maintaining the record of 1946. This fact when considered with the lowered incidence and mortality of the disease throughout the country generally is proof that the inhabitants of Aylesbury are as eager as ever to procure protective inoculation for their children.

There were two cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year. One, a child recovered and received remedial orthopaedic treatment through the Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Unit. The other, an adult, was the polio-encephalitic type and succumbed owing to respiratory paralysis.

In conclusion, I thank you, Mr. Mayor and Members of the Council, for your unfailing co-operation, and the time devoted to the health and welfare of the inhabitants of the Borough. My thanks are also due to Mr. Ruse, your Chief Sanitary Inspector, and all the members of the Public Health Staff, without whose assistance this report could not have been compiled.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. C. SIMS-ROBERTS,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3,288 acres
Population	19,320
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1947 according to Rate Books)	4,980
Rateable Value	£155,294
Sum represented by a penny rate	£635

Unemployment.

At December 31st, 1946:

3 women

25 men

—
28 Total

At December 31st, 1947:

1 woman

16 men

—
17 Total

Vital Statistics.

	Total.	1946. M.	F.	Total.	1947. M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	349	181	168	378	199	179
Illegitimate	32	14	18	19	10	9
Still Births—Legitimate	11	6	5	7	4	3
Illegitimate	1	1	—	—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1947 ...	1946. 20.12	1947. 20.55
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	20.75	20.91

	Total.	1946. M.	F.	Total.	1947. M.	F.
Deaths	189	108	81	198	99	99

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population	1946. 9.98	1947. 10.25
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Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

	Total.	1946. M.	F.	Total.	1947. M.	F.
Legitimate	9	5	4	11	6	5
Illegitimate	2	2	—	2	—	2
	11	7	4	13	6	7

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:—

	1946.	1947.
All infants per 1,000 live births	28.87	32.75
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.79	29.10
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	62.50	105.26

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS.

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	9	3	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Polio - Myelitis and Polio- Encephalitis	—	1	1
Cancer	15	11	26
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	9	15	24
Heart Disease	36	35	71
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	7	1	8
Bronchitis	—	1	1
Pneumonia	4	7	11
Other Respiratory Disorders	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Disorders	1	5	6
Nephritis	2	1	3
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	2	4	6
Congenital Malformation, etc.	3	1	4
Suicide	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—	1
Other Violent Causes	3	5	8
All Other Causes	5	7	12
Totals	99	99	198

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Infectious Diseases.

Accommodation for cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment is provided by the Aylesbury Joint Hospital which has 69 beds available, including 2 blocks of the cubicle type.

Pathological Specimens.

All pathological specimens are examined at the Stoke Mandeville (Ministry of Pensions) Hospital, Aylesbury.

Hospitals.

The Tindal General Hospital is under the control of the Bucks County Council and in conjunction with the Royal Bucks Hospital provides accommodation for the town and neighbouring districts. Both hospitals have continued to carry out excellent work but are hampered by insufficient accommodation and staff.

The Stoke Mandeville (Ministry of Pensions) Hospital has beds available when cases cannot be accepted by the above hospitals.

Ambulance Services of the Borough.

Three ambulances are maintained by the St. John Ambulance Brigade for dealing with accidents and other cases.

The Aylesbury Joint Hospital Board has an ambulance for the conveyance of infectious disease cases.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

All Maternity and Child Welfare in the Borough is under the control of the Bucks County Council. An Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Welfare Centre, Pebble Lane.

These premises are also used as a dental clinic for school children.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation of school children is carried out at special sessions on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Pebble Lane Centre. During the year under review 164 school children attended these sessions. 238 children under the age of 5 years were immunised at the Infant Welfare Clinics

Medical Practitioners may immunise children privately with no charge to the parents, under a scheme sponsored by the Bucks County Council.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases.

The County Council participates in the London and Home Counties Joint Scheme operated by the London County Council which provides persons suffering from these diseases with free treatment at the Royal Bucks Hospital or any other approved clinic.

Twenty-one new cases of venereal disease have attended the Royal Bucks Clinic during the year for treatment. This number does not include local persons who have sought treatment at other centres.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Borough receives its water supply from the wells of the Bucks Water Board.

Twelve samples of water have been taken from various domestic sources in the Borough during the year and the reports on all samples were satisfactory.

All houses in the Borough are supplied directly from the public water mains with the exception of one house which obtains its water from a private well.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage of the Borough is satisfactory, and is partially on the separate system, surface water from the streets and buildings being discharged to water courses at various points. There are pumping stations situated at Mandeville Road, Buckingham Road, California and Tring Road which lift the sewage from these low lying districts into the main sewers.

Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage Disposal Works, situated near the boundary of the town, continues to function satisfactorily.

Public Conveniences.

The Conveniences in the Borough are under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

At the Vale Ground, High Street and in Kingsbury Square there are conveniences for both sexes and a gentlemen's convenience adjoins the Cattle Market. Temporary urinals are situated in Upper Hundreds and Walton Road.

Public Cleansing.

The Borough Surveyor's Department have carried out this work very satisfactorily during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following inspections were made during the year:--

Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	523
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	84
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	716
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	83
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	39
Infected House Visits	...	...	...	...	29

Open Air Swimming Pool, Park Street.

Four samples of water were taken from the Swimming Pool during the Summer months and all proved that chlorination was adequate.

Indoor Swimming Bath, Bourbon Street.

These premises have only been used for slipper baths during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Sixty rooms have been disinfested against bed bugs; D.D.T. spray and Gamexane powder have continued to be used.

Schools.

The general sanitary condition of the Elementary Schools in the Borough is good, and the water supply is sufficient.

Local Rainfall.

JANUARY	.....	1.27 inches	JULY	.....	1.39 inches
FEBRUARY	.....	1.00 "	AUGUST	.....	0.63 "
MARCH	.....	1.40 "	SEPTEMBER	.....	0.96 "
APRIL	.....	1.90 "	OCTOBER	.....	0.39 "
MAY	.....	1.78 "	NOVEMBER	.....	1.18 "
JUNE	.....	1.34 "	DECEMBER	.....	2.35 "

Total rainfall for the year=18.59 inches.

(Figures supplied by Mr. J. D. Dugdale, Borough Surveyor)

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Pasteurisation is carried out on a large scale at Messrs. Nestles Milk Products, Ltd., and the Aylesbury Co-operative Society's premises. Thirty-six samples of milk were taken during the year to ensure that the plants were working satisfactorily.

The following retailers are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" and "Pasteurised" milk in the Borough:—

“Tuberculin Tested.”

1. F. J. Davis, “Homefield,” Bierton
2. Messrs. Dickens & Warner, Vale Dairy, Victoria Park, Aylesbury.
3. L. J. Evett, Park Street Dairy, Aylesbury.
4. W. Hodgkins, 87, Wendover Road, Aylesbury.
5. R. Lanchbury, Hadley Herd Dairy, Hartwell.
6. Messrs. J. Lisley & Son, 83, Tring Road, Aylesbury.
7. Messrs. Nestles Milk Products, Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.
8. R. S. Pearce, Stoke Farm, Stoke Mandeville.
9. S. W. Walker, Burcott House, Bierton.
10. A. Warren, St. John’s Street, Aylesbury.

“Pasteurised.”

1. Aylesbury Co-operative Society.
2. W. Cartwright, 61, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury.
3. F. J. Davis, “Homefield,” Bierton.
4. W. Hodgkins, 87, Wendover Road, Aylesbury.
5. R. Lanchbury, Hadley Herd Dairy, Hartwell.
6. Messrs. Nestles Milk Products, Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury.
7. S. W. Walker, Burcott House, Bierton.
8. A. Warren, St. John’s Street, Aylesbury.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.		Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1,475	644	2,721	5,418	87	
Number inspected	1,475	644	2,721	5,418	87	
All diseases except						
Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcases condemned	10	8	3	14	2	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	349	186	19	309	11	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	24.34%	30.12%	0.81%	5.96%	14.94%	
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcases condemned	6	28	—	—	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	267	157	—	—	—	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	18.51%	28.73%	—	—	3.45%	

Centralised slaughter of animals is carried out under Government control.

For the time being all slaughterhouse licences, except those premises under Government control, have been suspended. Slaughtermen’s licences are still issued to all men carrying out this work.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

It is still necessary owing to the shortage of nursing staff at the Aylesbury Isolation Hospital to reserve beds for the more urgent cases of infectious disease needing isolation, or special nursing.

Increased home treatment did not result in increased spread of infection, probably due to enlightened home care and the advances of modern medical treatment.

Diseases	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	25	16	—	—
Whooping Cough	19	—	—	—
Measles	11	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	3	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	1	—	1	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1*	—	—
Polio-encephalitis	1	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—
Para-typhoid	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	1	—

*Admitted to the Combined Orthopædic Isolation Unit, Oxford Isolation Hospital.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the year, with Analysis under Age Groups.

	0—1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	TOTALS.
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	3	4	14	2	—	1	—	—	—	25
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	6	2	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
Measles	—	1	3	1	1	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	11
Puerperal Pyrexia .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polio- encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Para-typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

34 visits were made to infected premises.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 —	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	—	—
15 —	2	5	—	—
25 —	5	2	—	—
35 —	2	1	1	—
45 —	2	—	—	1
55 —	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
	13	8	1	1

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.
M.	F.	M.	F.	
9	3	—	—	12

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and the Public Health Act, 1936, visits have been made to mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces, and informal action taken where necessary to remedy contraventions of the requirements of these Acts.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES.	Inspections.	No. of	
		Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	26	Nil.	Nil.
Factories without mechanical power	20	Nil.	Nil.

2. Defects found.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	In respect of which prosecutions were Instituted.
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Sec. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—				
(Sec. 7)				
Insufficient	1	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	—	—

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises:—

It was not found necessary to take any action in respect of outworkers' premises.



Borough of Aylesbury

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Borough Sanitary Inspector

1947.

Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

AYLESBURY

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during the year 1947.

NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTIONS OF BYELAWS, ETC.

Complaints received and investigated	70
Nuisances, etc., found	58
Nuisances, etc., abated	51
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts ...	8
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts ...	96
Prosecutions	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

It is still not practicable to carry out routine inspections under the above Act, but 97 inspections and 205 re-inspections have been carried out.

The Control of Civil Building Regulations were continued in force during the year, and 605 licences were issued; 383 being in respect of house property and 222 for buildings other than houses. 534 visits were made in this connection, but since October the majority of the applications for licences have been investigated by the Building Inspector alone.

365 certificates of Essential Repair were issued to enable builders to obtain materials in short supply, up to September 1st when this scheme was superceded by the W.B.A. Priority Scheme. Since that date 60 applications for W.B.A. priority have been received and investigated.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Ninety-one notifications of infectious disease were received during the year, as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Para-typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Salmonella	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							<hr/> 92 <hr/>

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Mechanical Factories on the Register requiring visiting ...	49
Non-mechanical Factories on the Register requiring visiting	52
Visits paid to Factories	46

PREMISES ON THE REGISTER REQUIRING VISITING.

Bakehouses	...	...	.....	...	...	...	13
Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
							<hr/> 34
							<hr/>

Visits paid to Bakehouses	...	...	...	39
Visits paid to Cowsheds and Dairies	...			83

NOTICES SERVED re CLEANSING, WATER SUPPLY, Etc.

Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	26
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	26
Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	2
					<hr/> 54

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

One Cowkeeper within the Borough is licensed by the County Council as a producer of "Accredited" milk, and another as licensed by the County Council to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Two dairies hold "Pasteuriser's" Licences, ten purveyors are licensed to retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk, and eight to retail "Pasteurised" milk, and another three purveyors are licensed to bottle and retail "Tuberculin Tested" milk. These licences are issued by the Borough Council.

Forty-seven samples of milk were taken during the year, the majority of which satisfied the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Order. Investigations were made in all cases which failed to reach the required standards, and the source of failure remedied, all further samples proving satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughter-house visits	...	...	...	...	523
Butchers' Shops Inspections	...	...	...	...	84
Food Shops Inspections	...	...	...	...	716

The number of animals slaughtered during the year was as follows:—

	Bulls.	Steers.	Heifers.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
1st Qtr.	16	41	103	144	632	943	21	1,903
2nd Qtr.	40	156	109	103	433	1,091	31	1,963
3rd Qtr.	10	204	259	147	552	1,565	21	2,758
4th Qtr.	11	188	332	250	1,104	1,819	14	3,721
	80	592	803	644	2,721	5,418	87	10,345

The number of carcasses examined was as follows:—

	Killed	Examined.	Percentage.
Bulls	80	80	100%
Steers	592	592	100%
Heifers	803	803	100%
Cows	644	644	100%
Calves	2,721	2,721	100%
Sheep	5,418	5,418	100%
Pigs	87	87	100%
Total	10,345	10,345	100%

The following unsound food was surrendered during 1947:—

Cow Beef	16,119 lbs.
Cow Offals	5,930½ „
Other Beef	8,381 „
Other Bovine Offals	18,009¼ „
Pork	686 „
Pork Offals	150 „
Mutton	736 „
Mutton Offals	779½ „
Veal	215½ „
Miscellaneous	7,920¼ „
	<hr/>
	58,927 lbs.

Total : 26 tons, 6 cwts., 15 lbs.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1,475	644	2,721	5,418	87
Number inspected	1,475	644	2,721	5,418	87
All Diseases other than Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	10	8	3	14	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	349	186	19	309	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	24.34%	30.12%	0.81%	5.96%	14.94%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	6	28	—	—	—
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned ...	267	157	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	18.51%	28.73%	—	—	3.45%

Centralised slaughter of animals is carried out under Government Control.

For the time being all Slaughter-house Licences except those premises under Government Control have been suspended. Slaughtermen's licences are still issued to all men carrying out this work.

From the number of visits made under this heading, and the other details given above, it will be seen that this is one of the aspects of the Department's work which takes a large amount of time, knowledge and attention. The decrease in the amount of foodstuffs condemned as compared with last year is accounted for in part by the drop in the number of animals slaughtered and consequent fall in condemnation at that source. From the analysis of Carcasses Inspected and Condemned it will be seen that 28.73% of the cows killed were affected with Tuberculosis as compared with 18.51% of cattle other than cows. When one realises that the majority of these cows were milked up to the time of their slaughter and that large numbers of old worn out cows are slaughtered in Knackers Yards without inspection, which, if inspected and recorded would probably raise the percentage, it is, surely, a very strong argument for the immediate and compulsory pasteurisation of all milk supplies.

The largest decrease in condemnation occurs under "Miscellaneous Foodstuffs" which is due to the fact that the examination of large quantities of tinned milk from emergency stocks throughout the country carried out during the previous year was completed then, and no condemnations under this heading are included in the year under review.

ICE CREAM.

Following on the outbreak of Typhoid fever due to ice cream at Aberystwyth in 1946 and representations from numerous Local Authorities including Aylesbury, the Minister of Health formulated the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, which came into force on May 1st, 1947. Visits to ice cream premises were made during the year and fifteen samples taken. In no instance was it found necessary to take any formal action against producers of ice cream.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit	60
Licences issued for the storage of Carbide of Calcium	3
Total fees received for the above licences	£46 15s. 0d.

Quantity licences to be stored:—

Petroleum Spirit	124,454 gals.
Carbide of Calcium	624 lbs.
Inspections of Petrol and Carbide Stores—	19.

CANAL BOATS ACTS AND REGULATIONS.

The work necessary for the re-opening of the Aylesbury Arm of the Canal was completed in October, 1946, and the Arm was open to traffic last year. Very limited use was made of the Canal and only two boats were inspected during the year.

SHOPS ACTS.

As closing hours are now far below those allowed by the Acts, strict supervision is still not so necessary as in pre-war times.

Thirteen visits were made during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The state of the Public Conveniences was satisfactory throughout the year; complaints were very few, the majority being due to minor damage caused at nights when the attendants were off duty.

During the year an order was placed for an electric incinerator for the Ladies' Convenience at Kingsbury Square

Following an inspection of the turnstile at this Convenience by the makers it was reported that the present turnstile is worn out, and a new fitting with free exit has been ordered. It is anticipated that the turnstile and incinerator will be installed early in the New Year.

Three hundred and thirty-two visits were made during the year.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. RODENT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

The Ministry of Food's grant aided schemes expired on 31st May, and in May the Council approved a recommendation to retain the full-time services of the Rat-Catcher, to give a free service to householders, and to continue to recover costs from occupiers of business premises.

During the year 49 visits were made, in addition to those by the Rat Catcher, and the following work was carried out:—

Private houses treated	354
Business premises treated	49
Estimated number of rats killed	4,284
Number of bodies recovered	1,147

A service treatment of the sewers was also made, 32 man-holes being treated with an estimated kill of 30.

Contracts with firms in the Borough for rat destruction to the amount of £42 per annum were entered into during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

Twelve samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, during the year, and all were found to be fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

DISINFESTATION.

Disinfestation of premises against vermin has been carried out by spraying and dusting; sixty rooms have been treated during the year.

D.D.T. solutions and Gamexane were used for this purpose and continued to give consistently good results.

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

The following inspections were made during the year in addition to those shown in other parts of the report under their respective headings:—

Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	298

GENERAL.

Dennis Rixon and Douglas Keen resumed their duties in the office during the year and are both taking courses of instruction with a view of obtaining their Sanitary Inspectors Certificates.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to members of the Council for their continued help and encouragement, to members of my staff for their loyal co-operation and to my fellow officers for advice and assistance.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

W. EWART RUSE, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.,
Borough Sanitary Inspector.